

Message Text

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44

ACTION DLOS-05

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DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 AID-05

CEQ-01 COA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 IO-10 NSF-01

OES-03 FEAE-00 ACDA-05 CEA-01 AEC-05 AGR-05 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00 CIEP-01 OMB-01 AF-04 ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3847

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USUN NEW YORK 676

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5659

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS MO

SUBJECT: LOS CONSULATIONS - MOROCCO

REF: RABAT 5654

1. IN LONG MEETING WITH LOS SPECIALIST NORDQUIST AND
EMBOFF DUNBAR, MUSTAPHA EL GHARBI, HEAD OF LEGAL AND
TREATY DIVISION, MFA, DISCUSSED GOM POSITION ON VARIOUS
LOS ISSUES. REFTTEL REPORTED HIS PRESENTATION ON STRAITS.
EL GHARBI IS GOM'S LEADING LOS EXPERT. HE LED
MOROCCAN DELEGATION TO CARACAS AND EXPECTS HAVE SAME
FUNCTION AT GENEVA CONFERENCE.

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2. TERRITORIAL SEA. EL GHARBI SAID ARAB LEAGUE HAD ALREADY ENDORSED 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND HE FELT CONFIDENT AFRICANS WOULD AGREE TO THIS FIGURE IF SATISFACTORY ECONOMIC ZONE WERE NEGOTIATED. HE COMMENTED THAT SOMALIA HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TERRITORIAL SEA AND ECONOMIC ZONE AND HAD CLAIMED TERRITORIAL SEA BECAUSE IT WANTED RESOURCES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GUINEA AND DAHOMEY WERE MEMBERS OF QUOTE GROUP OF 24 UNQUOTE WHO SUPPORTED 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA.

3. FISHERIES. EL GHARBI STATED THAT MOROCCAN FISHERIES CATCH HAD INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE THEY CLAIMED 70-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE. SPAIN, JAPAN AND FRANCE HAD ALREADY ENTERED INTO JOINT FISHING VENTURES AND MOROCCO WAS NEGOTIATING WITH SOUTH KOREA, KUWAIT AND USSR FOR SIMILAR RIGHTS. MOROCCO SUPPORTED OAU POSITION THAT LANDLOCKED STATES SHOULD HAVE PREFERENTIAL FISHING RIGHTS IN NEIGHBORS' ECONOMIC ZONES.

4. ON MOROCCAN-SPANISH FISHERIES RELATIONS, EL GHARBI CONFIRMED SPANISH REPORTS THAT JOINT COMPANY (MARO-PECHE) SET UP EARLIER THIS YEAR NOT WORKING WELL AND THAT SPANISH VESSELS CONTINUED FISH MOROCCAN WATERS ILLEGALLY WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM SPANISH FISHING SYNDICATE. UNLIKE SPANISH, HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT SOME SPANISH BOATS WERE PRESENTLY FISHING FOR MARO-PECHE ALTHOUGH FAR LESS THAN 200 PERMITTED BY AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING COMPANY. IN FUTURE, MARO-PECHE WOULD BE ACQUIRING SIX MODERN VESSELS, APPARENTLY IN ADDITION TO THE ONE PUT INTO SERVICE LAST WEEK, AND AT THIS TIME WOULD NO LONGER NEED USE SPANISH CRAFT.

5. CONTINENTAL SHELF. MOROCCO HAS NO PRODUCING OFFSHORE WELLS BUT INTENSIVE EXPLORATION EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY. SOME OIL BEARING QUOTE MUDS UNQUOTE HAD BEEN FOUND. EL GHARBI WAS NOT KEEN ABOUT ANY REVENUE SHARING BY COASTAL STATES FROM OFFSHORE OIL RECEIPTS UNLESS THIS WAS NECESSARY AT LAST MINUTE TO CONCLUDE TREATY.

6. MARINE POLLUTION. EL GHARBI FELT THAT MOROCCO'S GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION MADE IT PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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MARINE POLLUTION. HE BELIEVED THAT COASTAL STATES HAD TO HAVE SOME MEANS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES WITHIN ECONOMIC ZONE BUT HE WAS EMPHATIC IN STATING THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING WITH FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION, LAYING OF SUBMARINE CABLES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FREEDOMS IN ECONOMIC ZONE.

7. DEEP SEABED. EL GHARBI FELT THAT BALANCE OF CONTROL IN

EXECUTIVE ORGAN OF AUTHORITY HAD TO BE FOUND BETWEEN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED STATES AND
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HE STRESSED THAT PROFIT INCENTIVE
HAD TO BE MAINTAINED AND YET FRAMEWORK PROVIDED FOR FIRST
SUPRANATIONAL ENTITY. HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ADVERSE
ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF DEEP SEABED MINING ON MOROCCO'S
COBALT PRODUCTION.
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